

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
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12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A snowmobile comprising:

a body frame, the body frame comprising a front cover at a forward portion of the body frame and a track housing;

a crawler having a drive wheel, the drive wheel being accommodated by the track housing;

a ski-runner attached to the body frame;

a front suspension disposed in a front part of the body frame;

an engine compartment situated on the body frame and within the front cover;

a four-cycle engine mounted in the engine compartment, a crankshaft of the engine being oriented along a width direction of the body frame;

a drysump oil supplying system which supplies the four-cycle engine with engine oil from an oil tank disposed inside the engine compartment;

an oil pan situated at a bottom of the engine compartment and in a location between a point of attachment of the front suspension housing to the body frame and the track housing for permitting maintenance work for changing engine oil to be performed from beneath and outside of the engine compartment.

24. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 23, wherein the four-cycle engine is mounted in an approximately upright position.

25. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 23, wherein the body frame has a width dimension which is essentially perpendicular to a direction of travel, and wherein the engine is tilted forward in the direction of travel.

26. (New) A snowmobile comprising:

a body frame, the body frame comprising a front cover at a forward portion of the body frame and a track housing;

a crawler having a drive wheel, the drive wheel being accommodated by the track housing;

a ski-runner attached to the body frame;

a front suspension disposed in a front part of the body frame;

an engine compartment situated on the body frame and within the front cover;

a steering shaft arranged within the engine compartment and connected to the ski-runner for steering the snowmobile;

a four-cycle engine mounted in the engine compartment;

a drysump oil supplying system which supplies the four-cycle engine with engine oil from an oil tank disposed inside the engine compartment;

an oil pan situated at a bottom of the engine compartment forward of the steering shaft and in a location between a point of attachment of the front suspension housing to the body frame and the track housing for permitting maintenance work for changing engine oil to be performed from beneath and outside of the engine compartment and forward of the steering shaft.

27. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 26, wherein the four-cycle engine is mounted in an approximately upright position.

28. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 26, wherein the body frame has a width dimension which is essentially perpendicular to a direction of travel, and wherein the engine is tilted forward in the direction of travel.

29. (New) A snowmobile comprising:

a body frame, the body frame comprising a front cover at a forward portion of the body frame and a track housing;

a crawler having a drive wheel, the drive wheel being accommodated by the track housing;

a ski-runner attached to the body frame;

a front suspension disposed in a front part of the body frame;

an engine compartment situated on the body frame and within the front cover;

a four-cycle engine mounted in the engine compartment;

a drysump oil supplying system which supplies the four-cycle engine with engine oil from an oil tank disposed inside the engine compartment;

an oil pan situated at a bottom of the engine compartment and in a location between a point of attachment of the front suspension housing to the body frame and the track housing;

a port provided in a portion of the body frame which defines a bottom of the engine compartment, the port providing access to the oil pan for permitting maintenance work from outside the engine compartment when the port is open.

30. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 29, further comprising a lid which closes the port.

31. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 30, wherein the port protrudes into the engine compartment by a distance approximately equal to a thickness of the lid.

32. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 30, wherein the port is configured in the engine compartment so that the lid of the port is substantially flush with the bottom of the engine compartment.

33. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 30, wherein the port has its major dimension parallel to a width direction of the body frame.

34. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 29, wherein the four-cycle engine is mounted in an approximately upright position.

35. (New) The snowmobile according to Claim 29, wherein the body frame has a width dimension which is essentially perpendicular to a direction of travel, and wherein the engine is tilted forward in the direction of travel.